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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The following two routes are commonly used for the transport of freight to China via Siberia:
 - a. Through Berlin to Manchuria (on the Transbaikai railway to a Soviet-Chinese border point).
 - 1) Goods allowed: freight piece goods and loaded railroad cars.
 - 2) Goods must be addressed either to the Chinese consignee at the Manchurian station of destination or to the Soviet Dalvneshtrans transport agency.
 - 3) Freight costs to the German-Polish border, generally Frankfurt/Oder, must be paid by the consignor. Further costs to the destination may be paid by the consignee.
 - b. Via Czechoslovakia: In this case the freight cars are first sent to the Czech-Soviet border station at Čop, addressed to Metrans, and are then sent on with a new way-bill to the Manchurian station, addressed to Dalvneshtrans. On the new waybill the name of the end-user must be given.
 - 1) Freight costs as far as Čop can be paid by the consignor, but from Čop to Manchuria they must be paid by the Soviet Iransovtrans transport agency. Upon the dispatch of goods a call must be put through to Iransovtrans in Moscow, giving details such as the nature of the goods and their weight, so that Iransovtrans can give notice of the movement of the freight by telegram and enable a letter of credit to be opened for the freight as far as Manchuria in favor of Iransovtrans. From Manchuria to the final destination the freight is paid by the end-user. (1)
2. Tables of freight rates up to the Polish-German frontier or to Čop are available, but no precise rates are known for freight from these points to Manchuria. It is known, however, that the rates quoted by Moscow for watches and pharmaceuticals by fast freight or express from Čop to Manchuria vary between 7,596 and 6,662 rubles per ton.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

3. An individual wishing to ship freight from Switzerland to China by way of Siberia must first obtain a transit permit from the Soviet Trade Delegation in Bern. Details to be submitted with the application are:

Country of origin and country of dispatch

Country of destination

Name and address of the owners of the goods

Name and address of the owner's forwarding agency in the countries of dispatch and destination

Frontier station in the Soviet Union through which the goods are to be transported

Detailed description of the goods

Numbers, marks, number of packages, gross weight

Value of goods (invoice must be attached)

The consignor must also obtain a certificate of origin and a certificate from the Trade Section of the Swiss Economic Department to the effect that the transit goods are his property and are destined for use in the country of destination. It is not clear whether these two certificates must also be submitted to the Soviet Trade Delegation.

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- (1) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment: It seems questionable that Transovtrans should be the agency to pay costs on shipments between Ccp and Manchuria.

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